



**COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT**

**Benefits Administrator Memo #03-02**

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**To:** Benefits Administrators  
**From:** Charles S. Reed, Associate Director  
State and Local Health Benefits Programs  
**CC:** All OHB  
**Date:** February 4, 2003  
**Re:** Eligibility of Dependent Children

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The policy of the State Health Benefits Program relating to the eligibility of dependent children has changed. Now under the program, eligible biological or adopted children may be covered to the end of the year in which they turn age 23 regardless of student status, if the child lives at home, is not married and is not self-supporting.

Previously, a child who was employed on a full-time basis was considered to be self-supporting; thus not eligible for the State Health Benefits Program. Effective immediately this employment test will not apply. The determination as to whether a child is self-supporting will be based upon the answer to two questions:

- **Can the child be claimed on the parent's federal income tax return for the year in question?** If the parent is not able to claim the child, the child will be deemed ineligible.
- **Does the child live at home?** If the child does not live at home, the child would be deemed ineligible unless there is a special circumstance such as the child lives with the other parent if the employee is divorced or away at school.

Thanks for your assistance in implementing this policy change.